

ER 6-4010/a

Mr. V. J. Livingston *encl*
President
The First National Bank of Chicago
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Mr. Livingston:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 9 inviting me to appear before your Monetary Conference on March 18, 1955 as a participating panelist in the scheduled session on "Russia".

Most reluctantly I shall have to decline your kind invitation. My official obligations requiring addresses to various service schools and other components of the United States Government necessitate eliminating many other outside activities in which I would otherwise be glad to participate. Further, as you will undoubtedly understand, it is sometimes difficult and inappropriate for me to take part in public discussions on possibly controversial matters because of my official position as Director of Central Intelligence.

It is with decided regret, therefore, that I decline the opportunity to be present with you on March 18. However, I wish the Conference and its participants the very best of success.

Sincerely,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

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- 1 - DCI (via Reading)
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Invitation

Gardner Cowles
President and Editor of LOOK
requests the pleasure of your company at the
Annual Stag Reception and Buffet Dinner
of LOOK Magazine
to be held in the
Basildon, Jade Rooms, and Astor Gallery of the
Waldorf-Astoria Hotel
Thursday April 14, 1955
Reception from four o'clock. Buffet dinner at six o'clock.

No toastmaster. no speeches